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Letters

Expert on defectors offers clarification

In connection with your Jan. 24 news article "FBI official called smug on Qaddafi's threats," which attributed to me statements concerning the work of the intelligence agencies with regard to debriefing of defectors from the Soviet Union and its client states, I would like to make the following clarifications:

- The former officials interviewed by our Oral History Project had defected over a period of three decades *preceding* 1981.

- These officials were *not* interviewed on the subject of terrorism, but on the nature of the decision-making process in their respective countries of origin. The issue of terrorism cropped up as a "by-product."

- These officials appeared to have

been debriefed thoroughly on the primary *tactical* issues. With regard to our primary preoccupation, the *strategic* side, i.e., how the "system" as a whole functions, we felt that they continued to be an information resource that could be utilized further, and should be, since it would be regrettable if they were to feel that their social usefulness had been exhausted.

- I took great pains to stress that any deficiencies in this respect related probably to the downgrading of human intelligence during earlier years, and that it was a difficult task to restore the human assets lost as a result.

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